

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS ROME 8003

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT FORD), PFOR, IT

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT STATEMENTS: PRESIDENT LEONE'S
WELCOMING STATEMENT

1. 1. FOLLOWING IS THE (GOI TRANSLATION OF) THE COMPLETE
TEXT OF PRESIDENT LEONE'S STATEMENT OF WELCOME TO PRESIDENT
FORD, DELIVERED AT QUIRINALE PALACE ON JUNE 3, 1975.

2. "MR. PRESIDENT:

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO EXPRESS THE GREAT SATISFACTION OF
THE ITALIAN PEOPLE, OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND MY OWN PERSONALLY,
FOR YOUR VISIT TO ITALY, AND TO GIVE OUR WARMEST GREETING
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AND WELCOME TO YOU AND MRS. FORD, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF STA-

TE, MR. KISSINGER. WE RECEIVE WITH WARM AND SINCERE FRIENDSHIP THE PRESIDENT OF A COUNTRY TIED TO ITALY BY PROFOUND HUMAN BONDS, BY OUR COMMON WESTERN CIVILIZATION, AND BY ALMOST 30 YEARS OF ALLIANCE. THE FACT THAT ITALY CONSTITUTES THE FINAL STOP ON YOUR FIRST TRIP TO EUROPE HAS FOR US A PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEREST. YOUR TRIP HAS CONFIRMED THE FIRM RESOLVE OF AMERICA TO GIVE ITS MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, WHOSE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED BY THE SUMMIT OF BRUSSELS, TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, AND TO THE INTENSIFICATION OF EFFORTS FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF A PEACEFUL AND DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE MID-EAST CRISIS. BECAUSE OF ITS VITAL INTEREST IN EUROPE, AND FOR THE POSITION WHICH IT OCCUPIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, ITALY EXPRESSES ITS MOST FERVENT WISH, AND WORKS, FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF CONCRETE RESULTS IN ALL THESE AREAS.

A UNITED AND STRONG EUROPE WOULD HAVE A ROLE OF GREAT PROMINENCE IN CONFRONTING THESE ESSENTIAL PROBLEMS, AS IT WOULD ALSO HAVE IN THE PROMOTION OF AN HARMONIUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE WORLD, AND HENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE. THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION IS, IN OUR MUTUAL VIEW, NOT IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE STRENGTHENING OF ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY - INDEED, IT IS COMPLEMENTARY TO IT.

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WHICH YOU ARE ABOUT TO HAVE WITH US, AND WHICH CONSTITUTE THE IDEAL CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE SO FRUITFULLY BEGUN LAST SEPTEMBER ON THE OCCASION OF MY STATE VISIT, AND WHICH FOUND EXPRESSION IN THE JOINT DECLARATION OF WASHINGTON, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO RENDERING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY STILL MORE HARMONIUS AND EFFECTIVE. WE WILL ACT IN OUR RECIPROCAL INTEREST, IN THAT OF INTER-ATLANTIC RELATIONS AND DETENTE AMONG PEOPLES, AND WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF SEEING EVERYWHERE ASSURED THE AFFIRMATION OF THOSE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY, DEMOCRACY, AND PROGRESS FROM WHICH THE (POLITICAL) SYSTEMS OF OUR TWO NATIONS DRAW THEIR INSPIRATION, AND IN WHICH WE FIRMLY BELIEVE.

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THROUGH YOUR AUTHORITATIVE PERSON IT IS MY HEARTFELT WISH TO SEND, ALSO IN THE NAME OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE, A CORDIAL AND FRATERNAL GREETING TO THE GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE, OUR FRIENDLY ALLY."VOLPE

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